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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 30 | Min 20 | Humidity 70% Partly Cloudy Sensex 64,886 | Nifty 19,265 | Gold 58,740 | Silver 73,539 | Dollar 82.64 | Euro 89.29 | GBP 104.14

It's been a while since we last heard about the plan to start collection and transportation of waste in a uniform manner across the city. Last we know, tenders were floated. Since then, there has been no progress on that front

DUST TO DUST

Civic activists want proposal to be made part of Brand Bengaluru initiative

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The tender for the collection and transportation of waste in a uniform manner across the city has been gathering dust for months now. Activists say that the government should take up the proposal as part of its 'Brand Bengaluru' initiative.

Bangalore Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) under BBMP's Solid Waste Management Department had floated tenders for the collection and transportation of waste from across 243 wards. Nearly 300 contractors had placed their bids for the contract but the tender was again floated in January. Since then the tender has been gathering dust and not progressing at all.

According to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials, they are waiting for the state government's nod to start financial bids. "Currently, technical evaluation is going on and a financial bid is yet to start. We have received many complaints and a court is overseeing this as well. As soon as we get the nod to open a financial bid, we will start it," said a senior BSWML official.

The tender was floated in 89 packages for a project cost of Rs 590 crore and an estimated Rs 20 lakh per ward. Two or three wards will be tied up under a single package.

> **We need a single contract for the collection and transportation of segregated waste. The contract should include collection of all types of waste. One ward should have one contractor for waste collection**
>
> –Ram Prasad, SWM expert

However, a section of dry waste collection centres (DWCCs) had drawn wide criticism from the NGOs acting as Resource Organisers for the DWCCs.

Contractors have also complained about the non-uniformity in charges collected for the collection and transportation of waste across the city.

After nearly 15 years of failing to finalise tenders for the collection and transportation of waste, activists want to see some transparency and

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Portfolio puzzle: To be or not to be

Will somebody please tell us if the Dept of Public Enterprises exists? If not, what is this minister doing with the portfolio?

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Are officials ignorant of decisions taken by the state government? It seems so if the confusion over the portfolio – Public Enterprises – is any indication. The ignorance of government officials has not only misled Governor Tawar Chand Gehlot but also Chief Minister Siddaramaiah it would seem.

Based on the data on portfolios, Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah submitted the list of ministers to the Governor for administering oath on May 27. As per the list, Sharanappa Darshanapur took oath as a Cabinet minister on May 27. Siddaramaiah allocated Small Scale Industries and Public Enterprises to Sharanappa Darshanapur on May 29.

However, Darshanapur has not conducted a meeting with the officials of Public Enterprises in three months. A name board was put up – Sharanappa Darshanapur Minister for Small Scale Industries & Public Enterprises – at Vidhana Soudha indicating that he is the minister for Public Enterprises too.

In fact, the state government had issued

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

VK STREET SAMBHRAMA

Sunday turns into joy-filled funday

KS SRIDHAR

Much activity on the streets as Vijay Karnataka and BM take citizens down memory lane to a simpler, better life

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A long-awaited dream came to fruition for numerous citizens as Sunday turned into a delightful 'Funday,' with the community reclaiming the streets in the spirit of VK-Street Sambhrama. The event, organized by Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror in collaboration with various associations, marked a collective effort to infuse vibrancy into the city's heart.

Inaugurating the programme, Bengaluru South MLA M Krishnappa said that he was happy to be part of this programme and the programme helped him to relive his childhood. Former Corporator Hanumantaiah thanked VK and BM for organising such a wonderful programme which everyone can be proud of. According to Dr. Lohith U (Consultant-Surgical Gastroenterology, Bariatric and GI Oncology, Manipal Hospital, Sarjapur Road) the significance of health and well-being cannot be overstated, and events of this nature contribute immensely to people's happiness due to their enthusiastic involvement.

From every corner of the city, individuals spanning all age groups, from the young to the elderly, converged with a shared intent to participate in the festivities. Residents embraced the street gala with enthusiasm, transforming the event into a heartfelt hometown celebration. The festivities, spanning from 8 am to noon, captured attendees' hearts, as a jubilant ambiance enveloped the surroundings. Breaking barriers of age, both the young and the old engaged in the celebrations, delving into activities ranging from Yoga and Rangoli creation to dynamic Zumba sessions, traditional games like lagori and skipping, and contemporary favourites like chess. Moreover, an array of traditional games including snake ladder, marbles, buguri, and lemon and spoon delighted the participants.

Amid the jubilant revelry, an array of snacks, toys, handicrafts, sarees, and artificial jewelry were available for purchase. The organisers ensured that attendees arriving early were treated to a sumptuous breakfast and almond milk. As the games concluded and winners celebrated their victories, a hearty lunch awaited the assembled throngs.

One of the most enthralling aspects was the blindfolded pot hitting competition, which saw spirited participation from children and youth alike. With blindfolds on and sticks in hand, contestants attempted to strike the pot. Noteworthy performances came from Srinivas and his Chitradurga-based team, who showcased chirping dolls. Equally captivating was the Dollu Kunita performance. Meanwhile, Rohit Raj from Malenadu Pottery displayed creatively designed pots and containers, offering attendees a hands-on experience with pottery. Additionally, Aman's caricature drawings held the audience captive, as his skilled on-the-spot sketches earned him admiration from all quarters.

The spotlight shone brightly on a mesmerising dance performance by Aishwarya Menon and Bhavana Udaykumar's troupe, as they took center stage and enraptured the audience with their energetic Zumba routines set to lively music. The performance sparked fervour among young women, who eagerly joined the collective celebration of dance.

Children engaged in a spirited musical chair competition, creating an atmosphere of laughter and jubilation. Parents lent their enthusiastic support, resulting in a vibrant environment of encouragement. Throughout the festival, the streets came alive with a colourful array of rangolis, crafted lovingly by children, men, and women alike. From intricate dot rangolis to freehand designs, the showcased artistry was truly remarkable, earning deserved accolades and prizes. Infusing an element of glamour into the festivities, Rakshita, a young actress from the Kannada serial 'Satya,' graced the stage and delighted the audience with her renditions of popular Kannada songs.

Lagori, a cherished traditional game, encapsulated the very spirit of the street festival. This enduring favourite garnered enthusiastic participation, as attendees reveled in its simple yet exhilarating nature.

The event also aimed to preserve and promote traditional games within urban areas. Amidst the festive ambience, the sound of children engrossed in the spinning top game called "Buguri" evoked nostalgic memories for many. — **Prakash VL**

"Events of this nature contribute immensely to people's happiness and health due to enthusiastic participation – Dr Lohith U, Manipal Hospital Sarjapur Road

1) A spirited musical chair competition at the VK Street Sambhrama on Sunday; 2) Students and citizens participated in large numbers; 3) Kids take part in a fancy dress competition;4) There was much enthusiasm to spin the top, in a event that reminded even adults of their childhood; 5) Women dancing away to the upbeat performances of the day; 6) Children sit for the yoga session; 7) An energetic zumba session; 8) One of the performances that got many dancing; 9) Kids meet larger-than life characters at the event; 10) Citizens shopping at the stalls

Crackdown on inadequate buses begins

Parents urged to keep eye on safety levels of vehicles used to transport kids to school

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The next time your child is boarding a school bus or a van, it may be your duty to ask for the requisite documents from the driver. The Transport Department officials have made it clear that the onus of ensuring the safety and proper condition of the school buses lies with parents.

In the wake of recent inspections on school buses within the city, AM Shobha, the Joint Commissioner for Transport, stressed on the crucial role that parents play in safeguarding their children's well-being. Shobha said, "Conducting routine checks on the school bus conditions is just a part of the equation. Parents need to take an active role in verifying all necessary documents. Ultimately, it's the parents who are responsible, considering that their children's lives are at stake."

She added that numerous instances emerged during the inspections where school buses lacked valid fitness certificates, permits, tax clearance, and insurance. "Some were even found to be using unauthorised private vehicles, in violation of established guidelines. Our response has been swift, leading to the impounding of approximately 30 buses that did not meet the required standards. This process is designed to ensure not only the safety of school children but also the adherence to established transportation protocols."

Shobha reiterated that the inspections would be continued, underscoring their commitment to enhancing child safety and ensuring compliance with transportation regulations. "My earnest request to vehicle owners is to ensure that all essential documents are available with them, contributing to the overall safety of the students."

Vehicle owners have expressed strong reservations about the approach taken by authorities. Satish Kumar, president of the Karnataka Private Vehicle Drivers Association, voiced the owners' concerns.

"We've been consistently seeking permits over a prolonged period, yet we didn't get any response. The sudden implementation of inspections and subsequent vehicle seizures is perceived as unjust. While we acknowledge the potential for errors on our part, it's important to consider that the Transport Department should have allowed a reasonable window of time for compliance," he said.

He claimed that there has been considerable disruption to their ability to transport students, thereby impacting their daily routine. "Despite possessing the requisite documentation, many vehicles were still being seized. While we support taking action against those who are at fault, fairness and transparency in the process are of utmost importance," he said.

During the pandemic, the livelihoods of bus drivers and owners were severely affected due to the absence of work, he said. "Now, as we are gradually recovering, the unwarranted targeting we are facing is disheartening. Considering that our charges are as minimal as Rs 250 per child, managing our livelihoods on such modest income levels has become increasingly challenging," he said.

1 stabbed in scuffle

There was a commotion over the installation of a Ganesha Idol near the Dharma Swamy temple in the city and a man was attacked with a knife.

The scuffle took place in Halasuru Gate police station limits. The accused Suman is said to have stabbed Ajith in the chest, neck and back with a knife. A case has been registered at Halasuru Gate Police Station and the accused has been arrested.

Man murders live-in partner

A man is said to have murdered his live-in partner in Mico Layout near Begur. The deceased has been identified as Deva, 24, who hailed from Kerala. Vaishnav, 24, also from Kerala, her live-in partner, has been arrested. According to sources, Vaishnav had hit the woman on her head with a pressure cooker. Police said the duo were living together for the past three years. The police said that there was an argument between the two and the neighbours had heard noises from the house.

Dog barks, man stabs

A person was detained for stabbing a senior citizen in the city, who he believed to be the owner of the dog that growled at him. This incident occurred at 17th Cross in the Malleswaram when daily-wage worker H Raju suddenly attacked 62-year-old Balasubramanya HV on the street. The victim said in his police report that the dog that barked at Raju was probably a stray. Raju, has told the police the dog suddenly barked at and startled him. He was upset with the man and was yelling at him, but all of a sudden, he pulled out a knife and stabbed him.

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Citizens prevail, road restoration on the way

Authorities plan to fill potholes, clear drainage, clean up Doddamara Road at long last

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BBMP assured that the Doddamara Road would be relaid from the Ambedkar statue to Notredame Academy and that all the potholes from Notredame Academy to Dinne Circle would be filled up

The persistent efforts of the "Citizens group, Easy Bengaluru" to fill the potholes finally paid off when the authorities stepped forward to inspect the Doddamara Road. The team comprising officials from the Public Works Department (PWD), Bangalore Water Supply sewerage board (BWSSB), panchayath and police and traffic officials carried out an inspection. Special duty officers of the CM of Karnataka also intervened and have now stated that the road will be restored within 15-20 days time.

According to the resident, the 3.5 km road from Doddamara junction to Dinne Circle was in a bad state for eight years. The residents alleged that despite their repeated complaints to the PWD officials, no action was taken to fix the road and the road has been deteriorating. In the last two years, the BWSSB started laying underground pipelines that depleted the road condition even more.

Residents voiced their concern about the risky conditions for the students attending schools along that road, with school buses navigating the pothole-ridden path. The road being a vital stretch for many commuters, the urgency for repair became evident.

A Citizens Movement, East Bengaluru member said, " We are happy that finally our pleas have come to notice and the officials came in for inspection and have assured us to complete the work in the next 15-20 days. The BWSSB will carry out the restoration of work. We now see BWSSB actively working at a fast pace and we are hopeful that the work will be completed soon. The officials have assured us of relaying Doddamara Road from the Ambedkar statue to Notredame Academy and fixing all the potholes from Notredame Academy to Dinne Circle. This apart cleanliness of the area would be monitored by(Panchayath Development Officer) PDO on a regular basis." The residents also pointed out that on that road, PWD has assured them to initiate a detailed project report (DPR) of the complete drainage system for Doddamara Road by PWD engineers.

> **"We are happy that finally the officials came for inspection and have assured us that work would be completed in the next 15-20 days** – Member of Citizens Movement, East Bengaluru

A resident said, "We can finally see positive developments after a period of stagnation. Previously, no significant improvements were made, and the road was in a pathetic condition. We hope that the BWSSB completes the work as promised and that the road is constructed with proper techniques to withstand future rain damage and doesn't wash away soon after a couple of rains."

Since the residents had initiated fixing potholes by themselves, the officials after inspection found that the potholes were filled with concrete and stated that it was not the right way to fix potholes that could wobble and create more potholes. Instead, the PWD issued an order advising the public against taking independent action and instead encouraged them to submit written complaints to the relevant officials for prompt attention.

Time for a rally to make locality free of plastic

BBMP's Solid Waste Management dept, seize single-use plastics and impose penalties to the residents

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Residents of Upkar Layout and BBMP workers conduct an awareness 'jatha' on Sunday

The campaign for plastic-free wards is rapidly gaining momentum in the city. Residents of Upkar Layout near Kengeri along with Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) staff, marshals, and pourakarmikas (waste workers), organised a 'jatha' or a procession on Sunday, to raise awareness among residents about the crucial significance of maintaining a plastic-free locality.

More than 70 people participated in the 'jatha' which aimed at motivating residents to avoid using single-use plastic. The participants said the 'jatha' received a good response from the residents.

"We are very happy to associate with the BBMP Solid Waste Management Department which started a campaign to make Ullal a model ward by ensuring no plastic in the area. The 'jatha' served as an eye-opener for numerous residents, shop owners, and vegetable vendors, shedding light on the damage caused by plastic. I appeal to all residents to hand over segregated garbage to pourakarmikas," said Ravi Kumar, president of Upkar Layout Residents Association.

BBMP Solid Waste Management Assistant Executive Engineer Poornima told Bangalore Mirror, that during the 'jatha' the residents were informed about the compost generated from wet waste using an organic waste converter at Kengeri. "We sold compost bags to the residents," said Poornima.

Upkar Layout Residents Association secretary Dr Vijaya Bhaskar said the BBMP Solid Waste Management Department commenced the cleaning process more than 40 days ago. "I am very happy to see the usage of plastic come down drastically. The BBMP Marshals have seized single-use plastic from street vendors and also collected penalties from those using single-use plastic. They informed the residents about the availability of compost and some have even bought them," said Dr Vijaya Bhaskar, adding that some residents do not hand garbage to door to door pourakarmikas. JP Park is another ward where the BBMP Solid Waste Management has implemented some measures to make the ward free from plastic. Similar measures were taken at the Yediyur ward.

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Broken drain
Bagalagunte

A broken drain near Jnana Degula coaching centre, off Hesaraghatta road, Bagalagunte ward has created a potential risk of accidents and falls.

Cruel waste
Bengaluru Railway Station

While Bengaluru City is facing a scarcity of water storage, the Bengaluru City railway station lets water flow freely into the drain.

Road encroachment
RR Nagar

A house owner on 1st Main, BEML layout 5th stage RR Nagar has encroached the road to build a private garden and car parking, creating a blind turn and inconvenience to the residents.

Animal-feeders hounded, allege Indiranagar residents

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Residents of a gated community in Indiranagar are in a tussle with the residents' welfare association (RWA) members over feeding of strays. Animal activists have said the RWA is acting in an unconstitutional manner and its members must be suspended.

It is said that the RWA members are discouraging the feeding of strays citing an increase in their population. Animal lovers also alleged that some people have been throwing the food kept for stray animals in the drain.

Rajesh (name changed), a long-time resident of the apartment complex, spoke to BM. "We have several community cats and some people feed them. But some others have started a campaign to make the neighbourhood cleaner and are trying to stop feeding of strays. They say that BBMP rules don't apply here and are forcing us to starve them. We approached the RWA and they said that BBMP rules don't apply within gated communities."

Residents say that the feeders are being harassed online and that is causing them mental distress. "Animal lovers have been feeding stray animals but those against them have been harassing them over mail and WhatsApp groups. Sometimes, the language used by the opposers also gets derogatory. We have been completely forbidden from feeding the strays. The bowls kept for strays have been turned over," said another resident.

RWA diktat: Don't feed cats as their population is exploding

One person told BM that they had been asked to not feed cats. "The RWA says that cats must not be fed as they are multiplying in numbers and defecating in the gardens. Feeders are being shamed and told that the cat litter will be dumped in their houses," said another resident.

Animal activists say that feeding stray animals is a constitutional responsibility and it does apply to gated communities.

"There is no rule and in fact, it's our duty to feed stray animals. There is a Delhi court order placing the onus of feeding the strays on the premises of the RWAs. Why are individuals struggling when it's the responsibility of RWAs? There is no rule about removing domestic animals from the area. As per the animal birth control, it envisages sterilisation of cats and dogs. The residents can write to the Registrar of Societies to derecognise the RWA. The office-bearers should be suspended and new members should be reelected," said animal activist, Nevina Kamath.

Arun Prasad, a Bengaluru Urban District SPCA member, told BM that as per SWM rules, due to door-to-door collection, strays are struggling to find food. "As per Article 51 A(g) of the constitution, citizens must take care of the environment, and wildlife. Under SWM rules, wet and dry waste is being collected house-to-house and now stray animals and birds are struggling to get food. No RWA can impose rules against feeding strays and bylaws can be cancelled by writing to the Register of Societies. As per ABC rules 2023, clearly places the responsibility of taking care of stray animals on RWAs, apartment owners association or local authorities."

Police pursue daredevils on their own turf, for reel

As videos of traffic violations go viral, cops use same medium to talk about perils of such acts

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It has become quite the trend to create social media reels depicting defiance of rules while reveling in carefree enjoyment. Well, what do you say if the law catches up on social media too? The police are now using social media to share videos illustrating the consequences of creating such content.

Recently, a young person shared a video proudly showcasing a reckless wheelie performed on the road, assuming they had gone unnoticed. Regrettably, the viral nature of such reels led to imitations and law-breaking behaviour. The authorities, however, were resolute in their stance. After apprehending the wheelie enthusiast, the police responded with a thought-provoking social media post accompanied by a poignant song, showcasing the once audacious "wheelie guy" now finding himself as a 'guest' in the police station. Notably, the police even incorporated a compelling dialogue delivered by Kannada film star Yash.

A senior police official told BM about this initiative, "Despite our warnings, people persist in creating these reels. We encountered a 21-year-old performing a wheelie on the Bengaluru-Mysuru road. We decided it was time for action to educate him and others, using the same medium – social media reels."

Previously, the police had cautioned motorists to adhere to traffic regulations not only while driving on the road but also while recording content for social media platforms. With Instagram reels gaining popularity among the youth, a significant number were found to be flouting traffic rules for the sake of capturing attention on these platforms. The Bengaluru City police have established a dedicated social media team to monitor such instances. Notably, there was a previous incident where an Instagram reel performer was fined Rs 17,500 for violating traffic regulations.

File photo of a youngster performing a bike stunt on a road in the city

> **"Surge in popularity of short videos on social media has prompted many to create risky content. These videos are made just to garner likes**
>
> –Senior police official

A senior police official elaborated, "We maintain an internal social media monitoring team. Their responsibility is to oversee activities across all social media platforms. Recording a video on a stationary bike does not incur a traffic violation. However, if a video is filmed while riding a moving bike in contravention of traffic rules, fines will be imposed. Instances abound where individuals are seen without helmets or riding with multiple passengers – these actions constitute classic traffic violations." Detailing the police's approach to such cases, the official stated, "Using the vehicle's registration number, we issue traffic citations to the owners. While there is an avenue for challenging these citations in court, we proceed with fines when there is substantial evidence."

Another senior police official added, "Recently, an Instagram reel performer faced penalties for engaging in dangerous stunts and neglecting traffic regulations. It's crucial for everyone to understand that traffic rules exist to ensure safety. Unfortunately, the surge in popularity of short videos on social media has prompted many to create risky content. These videos are often made with the sole purpose of garnering likes and popularity. This concerning trend involves people flouting rules to gain attention, which is unquestionably hazardous."

Editors Guild voices concern over govt fact-check unit

The Editors Guild of India on Sunday voiced concerns over the decision of the Karnataka government to set up a fact-checking unit to monitor "fake news" on social media platforms.

The Guild insisted that efforts to check such content have to be by independent bodies that are not under the sole purview of the government lest they become tools to clamp down on voices of dissent.

Plea: Monitoring framework should follow principles of natural justice

Any such monitoring framework should follow principles of natural justice, including giving prior notice, right to appeal and judicial oversight, the Guild said in a statement here.

It said such fact-checking units should also be set up with due consultation and involvement of all stakeholders, including journalists and media bodies, so that press freedom is not tampered with.

The Guild has already filed a petition in the Bombay High Court, challenging the amendments to the IT Rules 2023 that allow the setting up of a 'fact-checking unit' under which the executive will have the sole authority to determine what is fake and the powers to order content take-down.

Karnataka's IT & BT Minister Priyank Kharge recently said that "posts and reports that are tagged as fake by the fact-checking unit will be taken down," and "if required, the government can also take penal measures under relevant provisions of the IPC". –PTI

Sigh of relief for TC Palya Main Road commuters

Plan approved to expand the road by 24 metres; BBMP identifies 17 properties along the road for acquisition

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The road between Battarahalli Junction and St. Anthony's Church to be widened

The stretch between Battarahalli Junction on Old Madras Road and St. Anthony's Church at TC Palya is known for traffic jams. Motorists struggle to commute on this road during the peak hours. The problem with this road is that it is not developed or widened as per the requirement.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner issued a notification on August 21 to widen TC Palya Main Road from Battarahalli Junction on National Highway 4 (Old Madras Road) to St. Anthony's Church. The proposal outlines the implementation of the approved Master Plan, calling for a width expansion of 24 metres. The BBMP had identified 17 properties along the road for acquisition. The land owners are advised to submit the documents to the Deputy Commissioner (LAQ & TDR) at room no. 208, 2nd floor, Annex Building-3, BBMP Head Office.

In the official notification, the BBMP Chief Commissioner stated, "The public is hereby informed about the details of the land and landowners, and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose and Development Rights Certificates (DRCs) are to be issued in lieu of monetary compensation. Any objections and suggestions are to be addressed to the Special Land Acquisition Officer within 30 days from the date of publication of this notification."

> **"As traffic jams are a routine for this road commuters, widening the road will be beneficial to reach TC Palya and Ramamurthy Nagar**
>
> –Ramesh N, a resident

According to the notification, the compensation structure for landowners is that they will receive twice the area of land surrendered in lieu of monetary compensation as Development Rights (DR), along with two times the building area surrendered. This second compensation will be calculated based on the value of the surrendered building area divided by the market value of the land on which the building is situated.

Meanwhile, motorists have welcomed the BBMP's plan of widening the road which was pending for quite a long time. They opined that widening the road between the Battarahalli Junction and St. Anthony's Church would be a great help for a number of motorists who commute on this road. "This is the main link between TC Palya and Old Madras Road. Many buildings are constructed and the number of families residing in this area has increased but the road width remained the same. The BBMP authorities should have taken up the widening of the road five years ago," opined Balakrishna S, a resident of TC Palya.

The residents and motorists said there are many educational institutions in the locality and most of the school vans depend on this road to reach Old Madras Road and other areas. "Traffic jams have become routine on this road in the morning and evening. Widening the road as early as possible will benefit a number of motorists who commute on this road to reach TC Palya and Ramamurthy Nagar," said Ramesh N, a resident.

The motorists said the traffic jam on this stretch affects the movement of vehicles on Old Madras Road. "Vehicles move slowly during peak hours as the road is narrow. I appeal to the BBMP authorities to complete widening the road without any delay," said Ashok K, an auto rickshaw driver.

Will the BBMP authorities complete the road widening soon? The hapless motorists have to wait and watch.

Probe into covid time irregularities

The Karnataka government has set up an inquiry commission headed by a retired High Court judge to probe into the procurement of medicines, equipment and the alleged irregularities in oxygen supply during the COVID-19 pandemic when the BJP was in power.

Issuing an order to this effect on Friday, the government said it expected the commission led by Justice John Michael D'Cunha to submit the report in three months. The government order said it has been taken as a serious note of serious charges made by the Public Accounts Committee in its report in July-August regarding the procurement of medicines, equipment and oxygen mismanagement that led to the deaths of people. The order further said the departments concerned will have to provide the documents required for the investigation and all necessary facilities including staff, space, stationery, vehicle and equipment needed to operate an office. The ruling Congress has been alleging large-scale irregularities in the COVID management during the previous BJP rule in the state. It had promised to conduct a fair inquiry into the irregularities if voted to power. **–PTI**

BMTC, do better

The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has received flak from commuters for announcing a bus commuters' grievance redressal forum only one hour prior to the event.

The Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike (BBPV) took to X (formerly Twitter) to call out the issue. "Dear BMTC, we are very glad that you organised bus commuters' grievance redressal forums. Please do announce in advance. These banners were put up one hour before the event," the group said, attaching pictures of the banners from Vijayanagar and Kengeri Traffic Transit Management Centres (TTMCs).

The forum was set to be conducted on Saturday, from 10 to 11 am. While commuters have appreciated the effort by the corporation to hear issues, they have asked authorities to give out a notice well in advance in order to receive adequate engagements. **–BMB**

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Peace matters

In a surprising turn of events during Wednesday's all-party meeting, political rivals set aside recent disputes and exchanged pleasantries. Former CM HD Kumaraswamy, who has been engaged in verbal sparring with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar, was seen shaking hands with both leaders. Despite trying to maintain some distance, HDK found himself sitting next to former CM BS Yediyurappa, who invited him to occupy the neighbouring seat, a gesture that HDK readily accepted. Adding to the intrigue, the meeting witnessed a conciliatory chat between former CM Basavaraj Bommai and Jagadish Shettar, who had been embroiled in a war of words since Shettar's exit from the BJP.

Chandrayaan effect?

Journalists wanted to know from HDK about the impending presentation of evidence concerning the NICE issue. However, when asked about the timing, he acknowledged a slight delay in his plans. HDK humorously remarked, "Originally, I planned to unveil all details on Wednesday. But given that the media spotlight will be on Chandrayaan's landing that day, I've decided to postpone it for a more opportune moment."

Real actors!

A touch of irony surfaced as DyCM DKS noted that politicians often play the role of "good actors." During an event inauguration, DKS shared his recent experience, mentioning his absence from inaugurations while rebuilding his party. Humorously, he recounted rejecting a film project offer, stating that politics involves its own unscripted drama and there is no need for added makeup.

Musical chairs

In a scenario reminiscent of musical chairs, the District Health Office witnessed a bureaucratic twist. Dr Jayashree's transfer from the Bagalkot District Health Office was met with resistance as she obtained a stay order from the Karnataka Administrative Tribunal. Simultaneously, Dr Raghavendra, deputed for the same position and related to Bagalkot MLA HY Meti, also occupied the office. With both officers unwilling to give way, police intervention was required to untangle the situation.

It is eggs vs chikkis and bananas

Turning our attention to the nutritional landscape, the State Government has embarked on a novel journey to boost the well-being of government school students by serving them two eggs a week. However, this dietary upgrade has sparked curiosity regarding alternatives for those who steer clear of eggs. Stepping into the spotlight, Primary and Secondary Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa unveiled the plan. "In yesteryears, we dished out a solitary egg per week. Yet, now we're doubling the delight with two eggs weekly for students up to the 10th standard. As for the egg-averse souls, fear not! We've concocted a flavourful solution: a delectable duo of chikkis and bananas," he affirmed with a playful grin.

Political codes are too tough to crack

During the recent PM visit to Bengaluru, disgruntled Yeshwanthpur MLA ST Somashekar was missing in action. For quite some time, he has been giving mixed signals about staying in the BJP. While he skipped the PM visit, he was seen sitting next to Deputy CM DK Shivakumar in an interaction programme. If this was not enough, DKS said that Somashekar was actually his prodigy and he had nurtured the plant (read Somashekar) with good fertiliser and now it was time to reap the harvest.

–Sridhar Vivan

What's brewing with UK-India FTA deal?

Transparency: Reports say British PM is being questioned over shares worth 500 million pounds his wife holds

#New Delhi

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak could soon land into trouble over lack of transparency in relation to wife Akshata Murty's Infosys shares worth an estimated 500 million pounds and if the said company is able to benefit from the recent FTA trade deal which is still in negotiation stage with India, said media reports. The software giant Infosys is trying to get easy access to UK for thousands of contract workers it has through changes in the visa regime, reported The Observer. Allowing more visas for its workers in sectors such as IT and artificial intelligence (AI) is claimed to be a "key Indian demand in the talks."

"As the Prime Minister recently learned, it's important he declares any interests properly. I expect him to do so in respect of the India trade deal too," said Darren Jones, Labour MP and chair of the cross-party House of Commons Business and Trade Select Committee - which has been scrutinising the FTA talks.

"As the Prime Minister recently learned, it's important he declares any interests properly. I expect him to do so in respect of the India trade deal too," said Darren Jones, Labour MP and chair of the cross-party House of Commons Business and Trade Select Committee - which has been scrutinising the FTA talks.

Earlier this week, the UK parliamentary watchdog released its report into an inquiry where it concluded that 'Sunak had inadvertently failed to correctly declare his wife's shares in childminding firm Koru Kids that stood to benefit from the government's budget policy.'

The Prime Minister of UK had to later apologise for the "inadvertent" breach that arose "out of confusion", and the matter was closed.

Soon, Sunak is expected to mark his presence in India for the G20 summit in Delhi. Due to the controversy, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) has even warned the Business and Trade Select Committee against conducting a trip to India in the coming months to examine issues around a potential deal.

UK parliamentary watchdog's report concluded that 'Sunak had inadvertently failed to correctly declare his wife Akshata Murthy's shares'

According to the reports, allowing more visas for its workers in sectors such as IT and artificial intelligence (AI) is claimed to be a 'key Indian demand in the talks'

"The committee was advised by the government that it would be better to visit India next year instead of during sensitive trade negotiations," committee chair Jones told the newspaper. Shadow trade secretary Nick Thomas-Symonds said while his party backed a trade deal with India, it is important that Sunak is "transparent about any relevant business links and his personal role in negotiations."

"As the Prime Minister's family may have a direct financial interest in any deal on immigration, he should recuse himself from this part of the negotiations to avoid any perception of conflict of interest," said Alan Manning, a professor of economics at the London School of Economics. Along with this, it is expected that India is prepared to cut tariffs on Scotch whisky and British cars and parts by at least a third if the UK is prepared to slash its workers' tax to clinch an FTA.

According to reports, India is pushing UK sign a social security agreement similar to deals it has signed with countries, including Canada, Australia and France, that could exempt Indian workers from social security contributions if they continue to make payments in India.

"The social security agreement is a very important thing for us. It creates a lot of ill will if folks have to surrender a significant amount of their savings," the newspaper quoted an Indian source as saying.

— ET Online with PTI inputs

UP slapgate: Students to be shifted from school

 # Muzaffarnagar

The Uttar Pradesh Education Department has ordered the closure of the private school in Muzaffarnagar district, where earlier this week a teacher allegedly asked students to slap a fellow classmate belonging to a minority community, amid pending inquiry and non-availability of required recognition. The department has said the students studying in the school will be shifted to other nearby private schools.

A purported video of the incident surfaced online on Friday, in which the teacher was seen asking students to slap the child belonging to a minority community.

The incident reportedly took place on Thursday at Neha Public School, located in Khubbapur village under the jurisdiction of Mansurpur police station.

An investigation was launched by the department into the matter after the purported video went viral on social media. In the probe, it was found that recognition of the school has ended an year ago.

Basic Education Officer Shubham Shukla said that in 2019, the school has taken recognition to run Classes from nursery to five. The recognition was provided provisionally for three years, which ended in 2022. Subsequently, the school management had to get the recognition renewed done, but it was not done. Orders have been given to close the school operating without recognition.

Further action is being taken, he added. Police are also probing into the matter. "We are in the process of recording statements of the victim, his parents and the school teacher. If anyone is found guilty we will take action against them," a senior police official said.

Father of the boy, in an earlier statement, had said that they have sorted out the matter after talking with the school authorities and will not press charges against the school.

"The school has returned the fees and we will not send our child to that school," the father of the victim had said. **– PTI**

Payout demand: Vedanta wins arbitration against government

#New Delhi

Mining magnate Anil Agarwal's Vedanta Ltd has won an arbitration against a demand for a higher payout from its prolific Rajasthan oil and gas fields after disallowance of Rs 9,545 crore (USD 1.16 billion) in certain costs incurred, the company said. The government has sought additional profit petroleum (or its share from the oil and gas fields) after it reallocated certain costs between the fields in the block and disallowed a portion of the cost incurred on laying a pipeline to evacuate oil produced from the Rajasthan block.

As per the contract, companies are allowed to recover all costs incurred before splitting profit in a predetermined ratio with the government. If a certain portion of cost is disallowed, it would result in higher profits and a resultant higher share to the government. Vedanta had challenged such a demand before an arbitration tribunal. "The company has received an arbitration award dated August 23, 2023... upholding the contention of the company that additional profit petroleum, on account of Director General of Hydrocarbon (DGH) audit exceptions in relation to allocation of common development costs across Development Areas and certain other matters, is not payable..." it said in a stock exchange filing. **– PTI**

Vikram lander observes temperature on lunar surface

#Bengaluru

ISRO on Sunday released a graph of the temperature variation on the lunar surface and a senior scientist of the space agency expressed surprise over the high temperature recorded on the Moon.

The national space agency said Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChaSTE) payload onboard Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander measured the temperature profile of the lunar topsoil around the pole to understand the thermal behaviour of the Moon's surface.

"Here are the first observations from the ChaSTE payload onboard Vikram Lander. ChaSTE (Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment) measures the temperature profile of the lunar topsoil around the pole to understand the thermal behaviour of the moon's surface," ISRO said in an update on social media platform 'X'. Speaking about the graphic illustration, ISRO scientist BHM Darukesha told PTI: "We all believed that the temperature could be somewhere around 20 degree centigrade to 30 degree centigrade on the surface but it is 70 degree centigrade. This is surprisingly higher than what we had expected."

The space agency said the payload has a temperature probe equipped with a controlled penetration mechanism capable of reaching a depth of 10 centimetres beneath the surface.

"The probe is fitted with 10 individual temperature sensors. The presented graph illustrates the temperature variations of the lunar surface/near-surface at various depths, as recorded during the probe's penetration. This is the first such profile for the lunar south pole. Detailed observations are underway," ISRO said in a statement. Scientist Darukesha explained, "When we go two to three centimetres inside the Earth, we hardly see two to three degree centigrade variation whereas there (in Moon), it is about 50 degree centigrade variation. This is something interesting." The temperature dips to minus 10 degree Celsius below the lunar surface, the senior scientist said, adding that the variation is from 70 degree Celsius to minus 10 degree Celsius. **– PTI**

Waste management indeed

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

accountability in the waste sector.

"It is imperative to include waste management as part of the Brand Bengaluru initiative. We need a single contract for the collection and transportation of segregated waste. The contract should include a collection of all types of waste such as wet, dry, meat, street sweep, leaf litter, etc. One ward should have one contractor for the collection of all kinds of waste.

Currently, there are six contractors for waste collection in a ward. Multiple contractor system allows for easy passing of the buck. To bring EPR, and CSR into government keeping, there is a need to streamline the process," said solid waste management expert Ram Prasad.

He added that the delay in processing the tender is affecting Brand Bengaluru in a big way. "The delay affects Swachha Survekshan's ranking of

the city and insufficient waste is reaching the processing plants. Improper waste management is also leading to wastage of taxpayers' money. In case of successful streamlining, the government can consider service charges," he added.

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I, Latha Ravi Chandran, W/o. Ravi Chandran, R/o: HB0602, Salarpuria Greenage Apartments Hosur Road Bommanahalli, Blr-560068, have changed my name to Latha Chandran for all purposes.

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100 days: Fulfilling guarantees is guaranteed, says CM

As the Congress government in Karnataka completed 100 days, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday sought people's cooperation to lead the "chariot of development" along with the execution of the five election guarantees.

Riding on its pre-poll guarantees, the Congress swept to power winning 135 seats in the 224-member Assembly as it dislodged the ruling BJP. The saffron party secured only 66 seats while the JD(S) came a distant third with 19.

"Our government has completed 100 days of coming to power today. In the last Assembly elections, the voters of the state placed their trust and confidence in us and our candidates won in 135 seats and allowed the formation of a secure government with full majority. We are making good use of this opportunity given to people and making sincere efforts to fulfil their expectations," Siddaramaiah said in a social media post.

The Chief Minister said along with the implementation of guarantees and executing development projects, his government is leading the state on the path of equality shown by philosophers like Gautam Buddha, Basaveshwara, Dr B R Ambedkar, Kuvempu, saint-poet Kanakadasa and Sree Narayana Guru.

He also explained how the poll guarantees namely 'Anna Bhagya' scheme, 'Gruha Lakshmi', 'Gruha Jyothi' and 'Shakti' are making progress. The Congress had promised to give 10 kilograms rice including five kg of central share to 1.28 crore BPL families. It has estimated that around Rs 10,000 crore would be spent on this scheme alone every year. However, in absence of adequate supply of rice and other food grains such as ragi and maize, the government decided to pay Rs 170 to each beneficiary till arrangements are made to fully realise the scheme.

According to Siddaramaiah, 1.08 crore women have enrolled themselves for the Gruha Lakshmi scheme offering Rs 2,000 to the women who are heading their families. The government has earmarked Rs 17,500 crore for it.

Under Gruha Jyothi scheme offering 200 units of free electricity to the residential power connections, 1.48 crore families have started getting the benefit. According to the government estimates, it will cost the state exchequer Rs 13,000 crore annually.

Shakti scheme has been fully implemented in the state where more than 50 lakh women and students are traveling free of cost in government buses everyday.

Around 43 crore women (total number of journeys) have travelled for free since the scheme was implemented and the total ticket value has crossed Rs 1,000 crore, Siddaramaiah said.

The Shakti scheme has been implemented with the hope that the women of the state should not depend on anyone for education and employment-related journeys but should be fully involved in the public domain and lead a self-reliant life, the Chief Minister said.

The words of praise expressed by the women of Karnataka are like a mirror to the success of the project, he added.

Thanking people of the state who supported his party, Siddaramaiah said: "I am proud to say that we are doing as promised in our first 100 days of administration. May you all cooperate with us in leading the chariot of development along with the fulfilment of guarantees." **PTI**

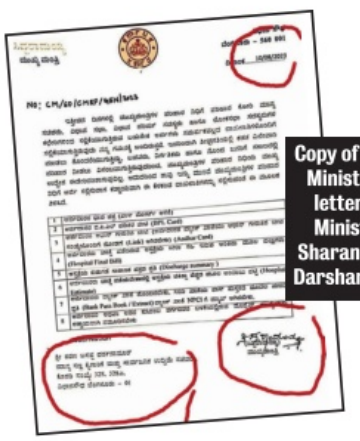
Confusion prevails over minister's portfolios

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

an order on June 8, 2022, repealing the Department of Public Enterprises to rationalise expenditure and reduce administrative weight. The state government stated that the decision to close down the Department of Public Enterprises was based on a recommendation by a Cabinet sub-committee constituted to recommend merging or repealing departments, offices and posts. The DPE had control over 60 public sector units including Mysore Sales International Limited (MSIL) and Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL).

Attempting to clear the confusion, Minister Darshanapur took to X stating that it was true that he got Department Public Enterprises along with Small Scale Industries. "However, the Department of Public Enterprises was merged with the Department of Finance. So, I could not hold a meeting with the officials of the Department of Public Enterprises," he posted.

Meanwhile, public and social activists blame the government officials for the goof up. "It is the responsibility of the government officials and State Chief Secretary to send correct data on the existing portfolios. They misled the Governor and the Chief Minister. I do not know why they hide the fact that the Department of Public Enterprises had been shut," said



Copy of Chief Minister's letter to Minister Sharanappa Darshanapur

HM Venkatesh, a social activist.

Lokesh BS, an LLB student, said that allocation of a portfolio that was merged with the finance department to anyone was unconstitutional. "The Karnataka Governor must cancel the portfolio of the Department of Public Enterprises immediately. The governor has to clear the doubts over the existence of the Department of Public Enterprises and convey a message to the public," said Lokesh.

Sudhindra Benne, a small scale industrialist, said the government has to clear the confusion over Darshanapur holding two portfolios – Small Scale Industries and Public Enterprises. "The people are confused about the existence of the Public Enterprises Department. The Minister himself is stating that the department is merged with the finance department. Why does the name board put up at his office indicate two portfolios?" asks Benne.

As if that were not enough, a letter signed by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has also addressed Darshanapur as the Minister for Small Scale Industries & Public Enterprises. The Chief Minister wrote a letter to the minister on August 10 advising him to ensure all documents while recommending needy people for the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

And thus, the confusion has prevailed.

HEALTH TIP: You need to feed your hair all the right nutrients, particularly plenty of protein and iron

Cinnamon and its active components may prevent prostate cancer, a study has found

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Ageing gracefully with a healthy brain

How lifestyle changes could help prevent up to 40% of dementia cases

A 65-year-old woman repeatedly seeks medical help for her failing memory. She is first told it's nothing to worry about, then, a year later, that it's "just normal aging." Until finally, the penny drops: "It's Alzheimer's. There is no cure."

Scenarios like this one are too common.

Dementia remains largely underdetected, even in high-income countries such as Canada where rates of undetected cases exceed 60 per cent. Beliefs that cognitive deficits are normal in elderly people, and the lack of knowledge of dementia symptoms and of diagnostic criteria amongst medical doctors have been identified as the main culprits of missed cases and delayed diagnosis.

Age-related memory losses should not be shaken off as just part of normal aging. Occasionally forgetting where we parked the car or where we left our keys can happen to everyone, but when these situations become frequent it's important to seek medical advice.

While many individuals experiencing mild changes in their ability to think and remember information will not go on to develop dementia, in others, these declines constitute an early warning sign. Research has shown that people with mild changes in cognition are at a greater risk of developing dementia later in life.

In fact, it has been demonstrated that the disease process (changes in the brain's structure and metabolism) starts decades before the appearance of symptoms such as memory loss. Moreover, it is increasingly recognised in the scientific community that interventions that aim to slow down or prevent disease development are more likely to be effective when initiated early in the disease course.

Despite this, protocols for early detection are not standard in the medical community, in part because significant gaps remain in our understanding of dementia.

Dementia and an aging population

In my research, I use advanced brain MRI methods to characterise brain health in older adults who are at high risk of developing dementia. The goal is to identify new biomarkers of early pathology, which could lead to improved detection methods in the future.

This projected increase in dementia cases will put an enormous pressure on our already strained health-care systems if no significant actions are taken to reverse this trend. This means that effective prevention strategies are now more urgent than ever.

Recent news about promising new drugs to treat Alzheimer's disease also highlight the need for early detection. Clinical trials showed that these drugs are most effective at slowing cognitive decline when administered early in the disease course.

Although these new treatment options represent breakthroughs for the Alzheimer's field, more research is needed. These new therapies act on only one disease process (lowering the levels of amyloid, a substance thought to be toxic for neurons), so they may slow cognitive decline in only a narrow subset of patients. A proper characterization of other processes, on a personalized basis, is required to combine these treatments with other strategies.

This is not to mention the significant increase in financial and human resources that will be necessary to deliver these new treatments, which could hinder access to them, especially in low- and middle-income countries, where dementia cases are rising the most.

> **By making dementia risk assessment a part of routine medical visits for elderly, those who are most at risk could be identified and counselled**

Lifestyle and brain health

Lifestyle changes, on the other hand, have been shown to decrease the risk of developing dementia with minimal costs and no side-effects. By making dementia risk assessment a part of routine medical visits for older adults, those who are most at risk could be identified and counselled on how to maintain brain health and cognition.

At-risk individuals likely need those interventions the most (potentially a combination of pharmaceutical and lifestyle interventions), but anyone can benefit from adopting healthy lifestyle habits, which are known to protect from diseases not only of the brain, but also of the heart and other organs.

According to an influential report, published in The Lancet in 2020, 40 per cent of dementia cases can be attributed to 12 modifiable risk factors. These include high blood pressure, obesity, physical inactivity, diabetes, smoking, excessive alcohol consumption and infrequent social contact.

This means that, by adopting positive lifestyle habits, we could theoretically prevent about 40 per cent of dementias, according to the report. While there is no guarantee of warding off cognitive decline, people can greatly reduce their risk of dementia by increasing their physical activity levels, ensuring they are mentally active and increasing social contact, while avoiding smoking and limiting alcohol consumption.

Some evidence also suggests that a Mediterranean diet, which emphasizes high consumption of plants (especially leafy greens) while reducing saturated fats and meat intake, is also beneficial for brain health.

In short, by encouraging people to be physically, mentally and socially active, a significant number of dementia cases could potentially be kept at bay.

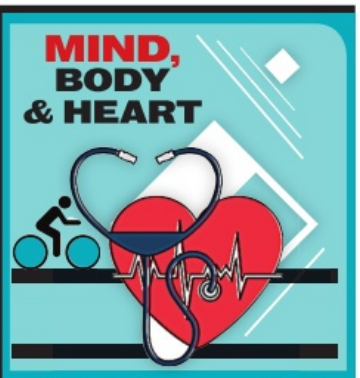
Barriers to healthy lifestyles

At the same time, focusing on policy changes could address the societal inequalities that lead to the occurrence of several risk factors, and higher prevalence of dementia, in ethnic minorities and vulnerable populations. Health inequalities prevail in many countries. People at greater risk of health conditions include those with lower socioeconomic status, people with disabilities, Indigenous people, racialised people, immigrants, ethnic minorities and LGBTQ2S people.

Policy changes could address these inequalities not only by promoting healthy lifestyles, but also by taking action to improve the circumstances in which people of these communities live. Examples include improving access to sport centres or prevention clinics for people with lower incomes and designing cities that are conducive to active lifestyles. Governments need to evaluate and address the barriers that prevent people from specific groups from adopting healthy lifestyle habits.

We must be ambitious about prevention. The future of our health-care system and that of our own health depends on it.

(By Stefanie Tremblay, Concordia University, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Age-related hearing loss

Cholesterol in inner ear
Age-related hearing loss is connected to a decline in cholesterol in the inner ear, according to a new study.

Phytosterol supplement
The research was led by Mara Eugenia Gomez-Casati from the Institute of Pharmacology, School of Medicine, University of Buenos Aires-CONICET, Mauricio Martin from the Institute of Medical Research Mercedes, and Martin Ferreyra from the National University of Córdoba in Argentina.
Experiments published in the open-access journal PLOS Biology reveal that phytosterol supplements can act in place of missing cholesterol and prevent sensory impairment in mice.

Outer hair cells
Outer hair cells (OHCs), a type of sensory cell in the inner ear, lengthen sound waves to increase their volume. Age-related hearing loss is caused by the decrease of these cells' capacity to stretch in response to sound as we get older. This prevents sound amplification.
Researchers made the hypothesis that hearing loss might be connected to a loss of cholesterol in OHCs since cholesterol is a crucial component of the stretch response and because brain cholesterol has recently been demonstrated to decline with ageing. On mice, this theory was tested.

Not stretchy enough
Age-related hearing loss is caused by the decrease of these cells' capacity to stretch in response to sound as we get older. This prevents sound amplification. They tested hearing loss in young mice, as indicated by abnormal inner ear-cell output, by over-activating CYP46A1 with a drug. They tested whether increasing cholesterol in the brain could counter the drug. As phytosterols can be found in many OTC supplements, they may be a way to combat age-related hearing loss. —ANI

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SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

A die is rolled and a coin is tossed, find the probability that the die shows an odd number and the coin shows a head.

Kakuro

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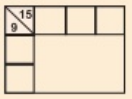

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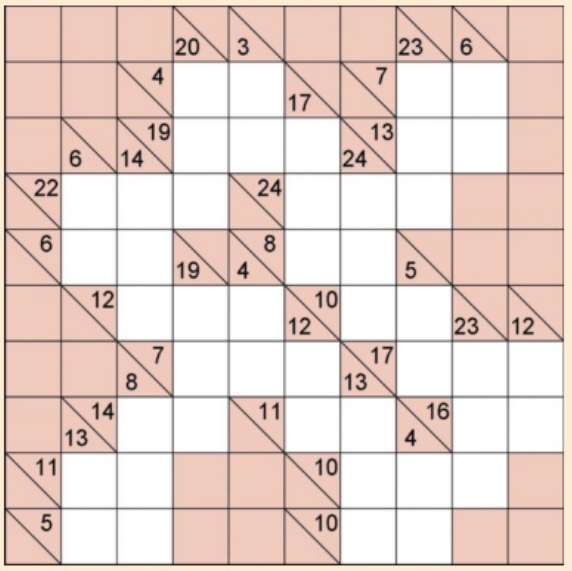

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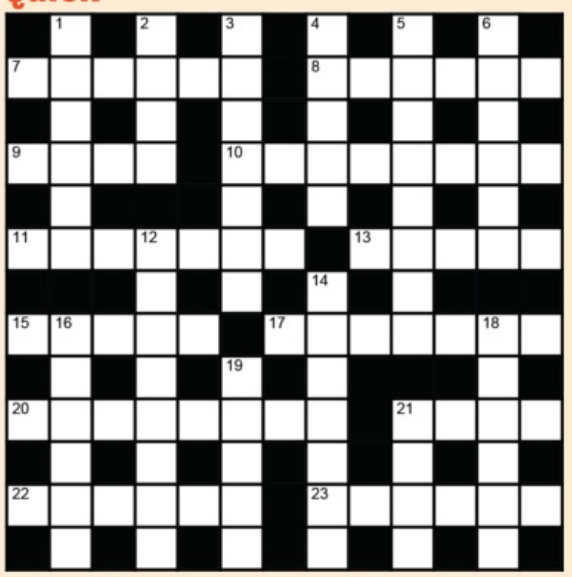


ACROSS

7 Senior nurse (6)
8 No __ than : well before that time, in a way? (6)
9 Pimples (4)
10 The last main part of a full-length play? (3,5)
11 National park in Uttarakhand (7)
13 Manhandles (5)
15 Employing (5)
17 Charming (7)
20 Jewish festival (8)
21 Her basilica is located in Shivajinagar (4)
22 Grew less or diminished (6)
23 Capital of Assam (6)

DOWN

1 Cowboy of the pampas (6)
2 Faithful (4)
3 In moderately slow time (7)
4 Overjoy (5)
5 Captivates, enraptures or entrances (8)
6 Edible grain (6)
12 He can play in a group (8)
14 Compound of nitrogen reacting with a metal (7)
16 Enveloping bandage (6)
18 Speak in low voice (6)
19 Summon up (5)
21 Reduce to a pulpy mass (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: W EQUALS H

QCBNSDC WC WND UCJCX TEXMZJCU WZADCPT NUR TNSPH, WC BNU TEXMZJC UE EUC CPDC'D.

Linemaro

Can you catch? Because I think I am falling in love with you

Mindchow

Discipline is the bridge between goals and accomplishment

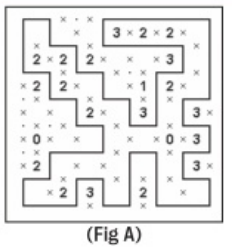
Joke of the day

CNN just said the world is forty trillion dollars in debt. Who do we owe? Jupiter?

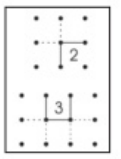
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

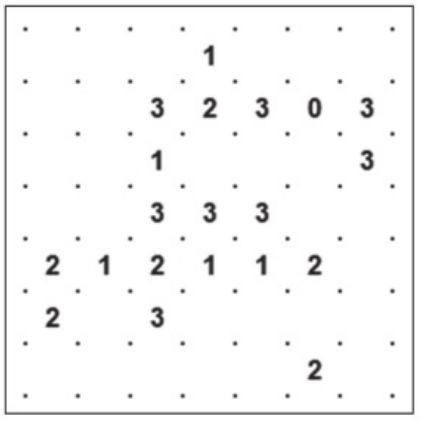


(Fig B) Not Allowed

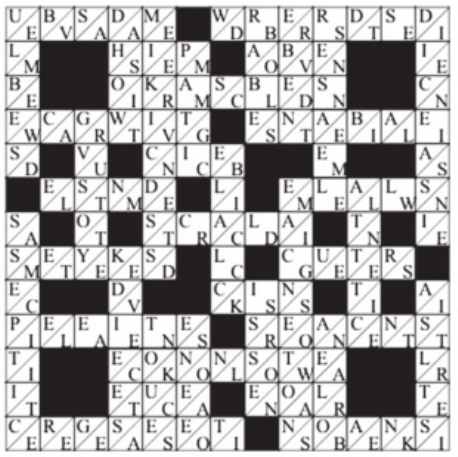
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



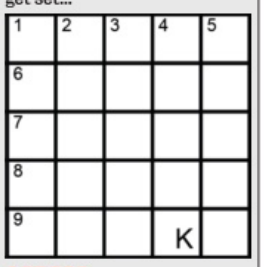
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

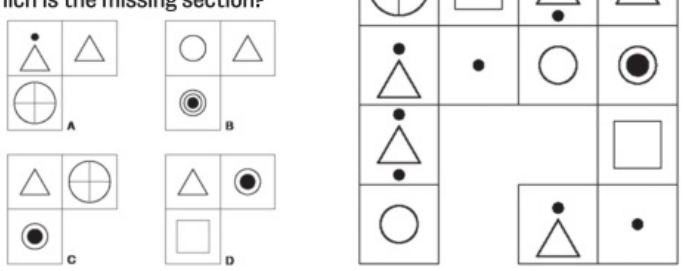
1 Harms; 6 O peep;
7 Tunes; 8 Cheat;
9 Has kW

DOWN

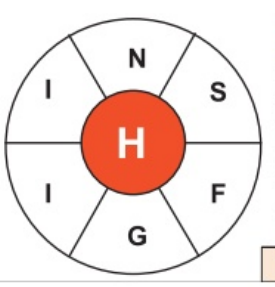
1 To hum; 2 An ape;
3 Wears; 4 Pecks;
5 H Seth

Mensapuzzle

Which is the missing section?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; **05** Good; **06** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

			3	1		9		5
2			9					
			4		6		1	
	9					4		7
	7			3			9	
1		6					5	
	5		7		3			
					2			1
4		9		6	8			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

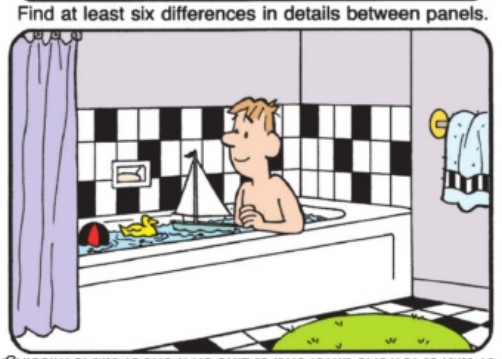
Easy = 22
2 6 6 8

Medium = 36
1 3 7 9

Hard = 37
2 7 7 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. One black tile is white. 2. Soap holder is higher. 3. Shower rod is not showing. 4. Arm is resting on edge of tub. 5. Towel is different. 6. Line on front of tub is missing.

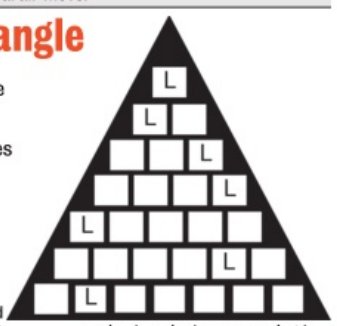
Riddler

A spoonerism is a pair of words that can have their initial sounds switched to form new words. The pairs need only sound the same, not necessarily be spelled the same (power saw & sour paw, horse cart & coarse heart). There may sometimes be one or two connecting words (kick the stone & stick the cone, king of the rats & ring of the cats). Given the following definitions, what are the spoonerisms?

1) a pile of writing instruments & a bundle of devices for painting letters
2) quicker male & principal air mover

Alpha triangle

1 The 12th letter
2 51 in ancient Rome
3 Lubricate
4 Make dirty
5 Kings of the jungles
6 Shoe part
7 Omission



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

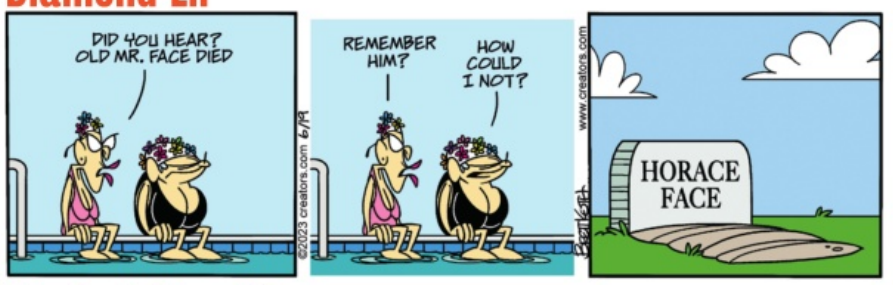
COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

HAVE A SEAT... I'LL BE WITH YOU IN A MINUTE
MY NEW MOCCASINS CAUSED A BLISTER HERE ON MY ELBOW
IS THERE ANOTHER MEDICINE MAN ANYWHERE IN THE TERRITORY?
6-7

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil



Hart of the city

I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO SHELBY MATHERS. SHE SKIPPED A GRADE LAST YEAR AND CAN TELL YOU WHAT SHE THINKS!
PERFECT! THANKS FOR THE HELP, MR. ALLEN!
CHARLOTTE, WAIT! THE MEETING ISN'T OVER YET!

Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you may not be able to present yourself in a practical way. You may have a dull feeling, which may make you feel a lack of confidence. You need to follow your intuition while making decisions in terms of investment. People around you may not be cooperative in terms of routine work. You are advised to be careful about eating unhealthy food to avoid stomach issues.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may have a good time with your family and friends. You may plan to renovate your house or may bring some creative items to maintain your social status, which may increase your prestige. You may expect an increase in your fixed assets.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today is a positive day in terms of gains. You may get results with less effort. Your losses may convert into profits with the help of your wisdom. You may plan for higher studies to groom your career. You may donate some amount to a religious place or charity. You may also help a needy person. Some investment into intellectual assets may be possible. Students may do better at their studies.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may feel dull and may experience some health related issues. Chronic diseases may reappear. You are advised to avoid hurrying and driving fast. You are advised to avoid conflicts with any business partner, so avoid any important decisions in terms of business today. You are advised to postpone investment plans. With blessings from elders, by late evening, things may get back under control.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may be blessed by your destiny, and projects that were postponed may be started now. With the help of elders' blessings, messy situations are now under control. That may speed up your project. Disputes between family members are likely to be resolved which may increase domestic harmony. Your creativity may be improved now. You may be attracted by the world of glamour.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today is a good day and you may feel enthusiastic. With the help of good focus, you may perform well in business and work. Your boss may be supportive; so you may get some new responsibilities in terms of promotion. You might visit a religious place. It is advised that you avoid being arrogant with your life partner.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you are blessed by the moon. Your destiny is with you and your projects that were delayed are likely to be started now. You may have your elders' blessings, which may help you come out from a messy situation. That may boost the speed of your work. Domestic harmony may make you happy after some disputes between family members are resolved. Your creativity may be improved now, and you may also invest in art.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, your moon is not in a good position, so you may feel dull and may face health issues. You may face losses in this period. It is advised that you don't invest in risky assets. Your gains are likely to be converted into losses. You should stop investing in worthless objects. You should avoid being involved in controversies; otherwise it may pull you down.

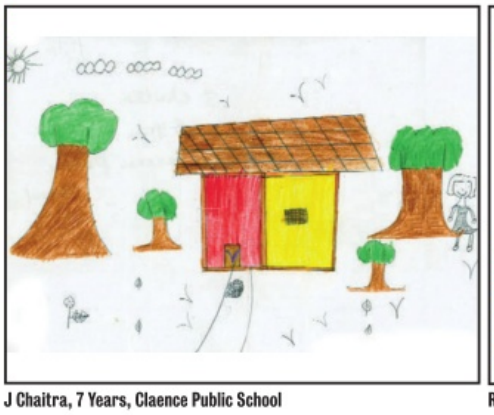
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you are blessed by the moon. Love would be in the air in terms of personal life. Singles may find a suitable match. You may do better in terms of professional life. Your friends and subordinate staff are likely to support you.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you may have confidence which may reflect in your way of working. You are in a winning position in terms of opponents and enemies. You may have good focus towards your goals. Health issues may be sorted. In domestic life, try to avoid unnecessary arguments, as it may affect your domestic harmony.

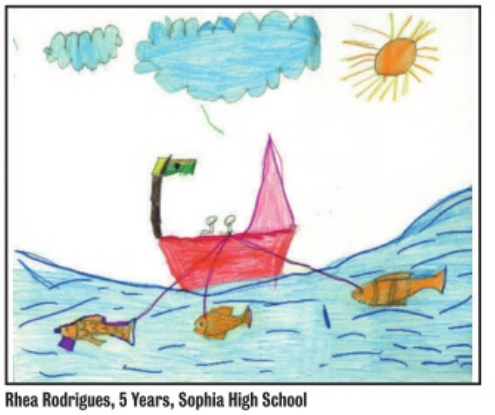
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
You may be happy due to blessings from an auspicious planetary combination. You may have some sort of positive energy that may raise your prestige among people around you. You may spend time on intellectual pursuits. You will also plan for higher studies.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may feel negative vibrations around you, which may make you unhappy. You are advised to avoid making investments on worthless assets. You may also notice that friends and people around you may not be supportive today. You are advised not to expect more help from anyone; otherwise it may make you nervous. It is advised that you take independent decisions today.

KIDZONE



J Chaitra, 7 Years, Claence Public School



Rhea Rodrigues, 5 Years, Sophia High School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
12 possible outcomes:
1H 2H 3H 4H 5H 6H
1T 2T 3T 4T 5T 6T
P (odd & head)=3/12=1/4

BULL'S EYE
finish, fish, FISHING, nigh, shin, sigh

STRIKE OUT

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
C: each opposite corner block of four squares are identical

RIDDLER
1) pencil stack & stencil pack,
2) faster man & master fan

SUDOKU

6	8	4	3	1	7	9	2	5
2	1	7	9	8	5	6	3	4
9	3	5	4	2	6	1	7	8
3	9	2	6	5	1	4	8	7
5	7	8	2	3	4	1	9	6
1	4	6	8	7	9	3	5	2
8	5	1	7	4	3	2	6	9
7	6	3	5	9	2	8	4	1
4	2	9	1	6	8	5	7	3

ALPHA TRIANGLE
L, I, Oil, Soil, Lions, Insole, Ellsion.

LOOP

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 + 6 + 8 + 6 = 22
Medium
7 – 3 x 9 x 1 = 36
Hard
7 x 4 + 7 + 2 = 37

KAKURO

FAST FIVE

M	A	R	S	H
O	P	E	P	E
U	N	S	E	T
T	E	A	C	H
H	A	W	K	S

QUOTE UNCODE
Because he has never forgiven himself any fault, he can forgive no one else's.

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In the afterglow

Find out how Kriti is celebrating her big National Award win

Kriti Sanon has come a long way in her journey ever since this outsider made her debut in the industry 9 years ago. She has now won one of the most prestigious awards for Best Actress as she bagged the 69th National Award for her phenomenal performance in Mimi.

The actress celebrated the mega achievement with her closest ones since it was announced, and is now set to host a small celebration too. As per sources close to her film, Mimi, Kriti is hosting an intimate gathering for the team of the film, the Maddock team and her own team and some close friends to celebrate the National Award with the people who made it all possible.

It will be held at her house. On the day the award was announced, Kriti Sanon decided to just take the moment in with her family and closest ones in the comfort of her home as they ordered in pizzas.

She also was seen going to Siddhivinayak Temple with her family to offer her prayers for the win and even distributed prasad to the photographers outside as well as the street kids.

Kriti shared the Best Actress award with Alia Bhatt who won for Gangubai Kathiawadi. This win for the actresses is bigger, considering both of them solely led their films.

On the work front, Kriti will next be seen in 'Ganapath part 1', a robotic love story with Shahid Kapoor, 'The Crew' with Kareena Kapoor Khan along with her maiden production venture, 'Do Patti' which also stars her in the lead along with Kajol.

–ETimes

Norse God workout

Australian actor Chris Hemsworth delighted fans on Instagram as he posted a video showing exactly how he has built and maintained the body of a mythological Norse God.

He captioned it: "Doing a lot less heavy weight sessions lately and incorporating sprint work and more functional movements. A solid full body workout routine. Feeling good."

He added that he couldn't reveal if he or the friend he was seen sprinting with at the start of the video, adventurer Ross Edgley, had won the race. He joked: "In case you're wondering yes I left @rossedgley in the dust…..um well maybe, unfortunately the camera ran outta film so we'll never know for certain."

As per Mirror.co.uk, Ross commented: "The only person I know who's muscle fibres are becoming MORE fast twitch and powerful with each slice of birthday cake." In the video, Chris begins by sprinting up a hill with Ross before the camera cuts to him focusing on bodyweight exercises.

He squats, throws and twists with a medicine ball, gets his arms working with some battle ropes, and makes some tricky forwards and backwards mountain climbers look easy.

Unsurprisingly, his 57.7million followers lapped it up. Fellow Aussie Rebel Wilson left some appreciative fire emojis, and Serena Williams commented "Yassss body weight is best!"

Many others were more enamoured with Chris' sausage dog, who was seen trailing behind them in their race. They begged for more videos of the little pup, and expressed that had they been racing with Chris and Ross, they too would have trailed behind. –IANS

Politics, crime and much action

BAYALUSEEME (KANNADA)
2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Varun Kattimani
- **ACTORS** TS Nagabharana, Varun Kattimani, Ravi Shankar, Samyukta Hornad, Yash Shetty, Archna Kottige, and Bhavani Prakash.
- **Duration** 123 minutes
- **Certification** A

Varun Katimani has done a good job in Bayaluseeme

The USP of Bayaluseeme is that it transports the audiences to North Karnataka, especially Gajendragad in Gadag. Director Varun Kattimani who debuts as a hero and director in Sandalwood with this film has carried off both roles with aplomb. Perhaps, his theatre background helped him face the camera without hassle. The director shows how people in the region go to any extent to protect those who trust them and also to teach a lesson to those who betray them.

The movie begins with Rajeswari alias Raji (Bhavani Prakash), a theater artiste, getting close to a landlord and becoming pregnant. The landlord then goes into a coma and fails to recognise Raji and her son Shankar, who later kills him.

Meanwhile, Huliyappa alias Huli (Yash Shetty), a goon, comes out of prison and joins hands with Shankar (Ravi Shankar), a drug-peddler who wants to get elected to the State Assembly. Both create problems for Baburao Shinde (TS Nagabharana), an honest politician of Gajendragad. Ramu (Varun Kattimani), Shinde's supporter, falls in love with Akkamma (Samyukta Hornad), a widow. Shinde arranges Ramu's marriage with Akkamma but Shankar and Huli kill Ramu's brother Mahesh. What happens to Shinde and Ramu is what Bayaluseeme is all about.

Veteran director and actor Nagabharana is at his best. His ability to deliver dialogues in the North Karnataka diction is superb. Varun, as a staunch follower and dedicated lover, has acted well. He is good with the action scenes. Yash Shetty and Ravi Shankar have outdone each other and Samyuktha Hornad and Archana Kottige have provided good support.

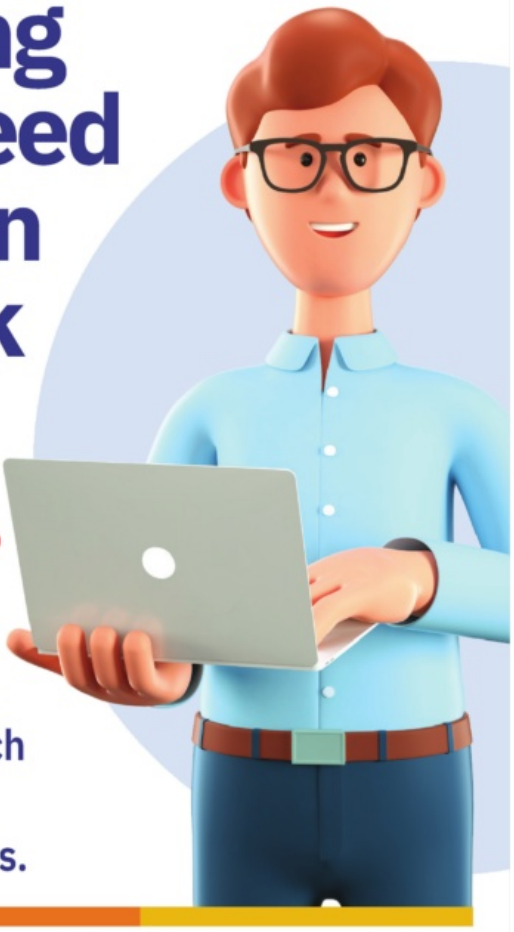
The film's drawback is that it has too many gory scenes and much violence. It is worth a watch for those who want to know more about North Karnataka.

–Y Maheswara Reddy

NSE

Soch kar
Samajh kar
Invest kar

Promising guaranteed returns in the stock market is illegal.



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